

1400 South 19th Avenue
Bozeman, MT 59718

June 16, 2005

To: Governor's Office, Mike Volesky, State Capitol, Room 204, P.O. Box 200801, Helena, MT 59620-0801
Environmental Quality Council, State Capitol, Room 106, P.O. Box 201704, Helena, MT 59620-1704
Dept. of Environmental Quality, Metcalf Building, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901
Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation, P.O. Box 201601, Helena, MT 59620-1601
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks:
Director's Office Parks Division Lands Section FWP Commissioners
Fisheries Division Legal Unit Wildlife Division Design & Construction
MT Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, P.O. Box 201202, Helena, MT 59620-1202
MT State Parks Association, P.O. Box 699, Billings, MT 59103
MT State Library, 1515 E. Sixth Ave., P.O. Box 201800, Helena, MT 59620
James Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, P.O. Box 1184, Helena, MT 59624
Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Council, P.O. Box 595, Helena, MT 59624
George Ochenski, P.O. Box 689, Helena, MT 59624
Jerry DiMarco, P.O. Box 1571, Bozeman, MT 59771
Montana Wildlife Federation, P.O. Box 1175, Helena, MT 59624
Wayne Hurst, P.O. Box 728, Libby, MT 59923

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The enclosed Decision Notice was prepared for the proposed Beaverhead and Big Hole River Recreation Rules Environmental Assessment. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) reviewed the predicted impacts of proposed amendments to the administrative rules governing recreational use on the Beaverhead and Big Hole Rivers. In this Decision Notice, FWP has adopted the preferred alternative with some modifications, as described in the attached Decision Notice, to ensure consistency with FWP Commission's final rulemaking decision.

Testimonies from three public hearings as well as written public comments from sixty-six individuals and organizations were received during the public comment period for the proposed rule changes (January 27, 2005 to March 7, 2005) and for the Environmental Assessment (February 15, 2005 to March 11, 2005).

This Decision Notice is available for review in Helena at FWP's Headquarters, the State Library, and the Environmental Quality Council. It also may be obtained from FWP at the address provided above, or viewed on FWP's Internet website: <http://www.fwp.mt.gov/publicnotices>.

Questions regarding this Decision Notice may be directed to Charlie Sperry, River Recreation Management Specialist, P O Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701 or e-mailed to csperry@mt.gov.

Thank you for your interest in the management of Montana's recreational opportunities.

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Flowers
Region 3 Supervisor

Attachment